

SERFC Water Resource Outlook

Part I - Mission Connection

- a. Product Description - The NWS River Forecast Centers (RFC) and Weather Forecast Offices produce a wide variety of products which depict current and future river conditions. There is a need for a product that shows at a glance the overall hydrologic condition expected for the upcoming two months. The experimental South East RFC (SERFC) Water Resource Outlook is an Internet web page graphic and associated text product that satisfies this need. The products are for the SERFC area of responsibility, which covers much of the Southeast U. S. and also Puerto Rico.

The products will be issued after the Climate Prediction Center outlooks are released at mid-month and cover the following two month period (i.e. product issued around June 15 will cover the period of July and August).

- b. Purpose - A wide variety of water managers need to know the overall water resource outlook over a period of several months. By studying current surface water and groundwater conditions, status of water supply and flood control reservoirs, coordination with state and federal water management agencies on supply and water use, and applying CPC outlook information and SERFC ensemble streamflow predictions, a general hydrologic outlook for a river basin can be produced. Water managers can then use this product to aid in their decision making process.
- c. Audience - The target audience for this product is wide ranging. It is envisioned that users will be: the Army Corps of Engineers (COE), the US Geological Survey (USGS), emergency management agencies (federal, state, and local), state water management districts, power companies, water supply entities, recreational interests, state natural resources departments, and the general public.
- d. Presentation Format - The SERFC Water Resource Outlook is a web-based graphic with associated text products. The graphic shows the SERFC area of responsibility with the major river basins outlined. Each is assigned a color which represents the hydrologic outlook for that basin according to a key which is also on the page. The outlook covers a period of the upcoming two months. Buttons are available on the bottom of the page which lead to text descriptions of the outlook for a given basin.
- e. Feedback Method - Comments regarding the SERFC Water Resource Outlook should be sent to the feedback e:mail address on the webpage containing the product. Comments may also be provided to:

Southeast River Forecast Center
4 Falcon Drive
Peachtree City, GA 30269
Attn: John Feldt

John.Feldt@noaa.gov

Experimental Feedback Period: June 1 through October 1, 2003.

Part II - Technical Description

- a. Format and Science Basis - Hydrometeorologists at SERFC will consider existing surface and groundwater conditions, reservoir storage volumes, water information from other federal and state agencies, ensemble streamflow predictions, and updates from CPC to determine the hydrologic outlook for the upcoming two months for major basins across the SERFC area of responsibility. ArcView GIS software is used to prepare a graphic which will be posted on our web page. Text products for each major basin are available via buttons at the bottom of the page. A sample of this product can be found at:
<http://srh.noaa.gov/atr/wro>
- b. Product Availability - The SERFC Water Resource Outlook will be produced and sent to the web on a monthly basis, shortly after the middle of the month (after CPC guidance has been updated).
- c. Additional Information - Contact John Feldt (John.Feldt@noaa.gov) or Todd Hamill (Todd.Hamill@noaa.gov) at SERFC (phone 770-486-0028).